

**California Recreational Trails Committee
Public Meeting Minutes
Concord City Complex
Permit Center – Building “D”
1950 Parkside Drive
Concord, California
August 24, 2006**

I. Call to Order

Jeannie Gillen, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 9:10am

II. Introduction to Committee Members and Staff

Members present:

Gregory Gandrud, John Mercurio, Maryanne Vancio

Staff Present:

Paul Romero, Chief Deputy Director, California State Parks

Steve Musillami, Executive Secretary for the CRTC, Statewide Trails Manager

Adrianne Tillis, Secretary, California State Parks

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May 2006 meeting, were moved for approval by Jeannie Gillen, seconded by Maryanne Vancio, approved unanimously.

IV. Reports

a. State Park Director's Report (Paul Romero, Chief Deputy Director):

- Thanked Superintendent Craig Mattson for the tour at Mt. Diablo
- Mentioned Tony Look's passing. The Sempervirens Fund will be conducting a memorial in Tony's honor.
- 2006 DMP-250 million dollars for Parks to open facilities that have been closed and repair facilities with public health and safety issues. One time funding opportunity, by November the project list will be approved. About 80% of the funding will go for structural projects/repairs.
- Prop 84 will provide 400 million for State Parks. The Bond funds can be used to improve or establish new campgrounds and to continue priority work already slated on current list. The focus is to rebuild the State Park system and improve the visitor experience.
- A portion of the Prop. 84 funds will be used to repair employee housing. Some housing has had to be closed due to black mold. Most of the 715 homes in the State Park system were built in 1948 and none are up to current standards.
- Oct 2nd is Recreational Trails Program Grant Funding deadline.

- The Department is proceeding with the preparation for the environmental document for a group camp at Cuyamca State Park. It is a 9 to 12 month process, and is currently funded.
- Still looking for new members for the CRTC committee, application must be accompanied by a letter from a trail advocacy group.
- A Symposium will be conducted the latter part of October which is supported by a number of Concession operators, public agencies and private companies at Asilomar.
- Sept. 23rd ribbon cutting ceremony at the Los Angeles State Historic Park.
- Oct 4th. Dedication at East Shore State Park.

b. Statewide Trails Manager's Report: (Steve Musillami)

- We are actively planning the 22nd California Trails and Greenways conference in Folsom May 10, 11, and 12 at the Lake Natoma Inn. Pre conference workshops and sessions will be included. Also looking at having a little more free time during the conference. Trying to tie more outside events and more options to the conference. Will be having the awards at the conference and will be conducting a CRTC meeting during the middle of the conference to help draw more people into the meeting and make them more aware of the Committee. Working on getting 3 large sponsors, in addition to non-profit organizations. The CRTC Members were encouraged to be more involved, the members agreed to the recommendation.
- The Coastal Conservancy Grant with the Department and the California Conservation Corp. Memorandum of Agreement for Coastal Trail Improvements. Looking to complete six projects within coastal State Park Units. Project funding includes all of the permitting, design, construction and project supervision.
- Actively working with other CSP staff to bring as many trail projects to the top of the Deferred Maintenance Program list as possible.

c. Chair Report (Jeannie Gillen):

- Jeannie wanted to thank everyone for the great time at Mt. Diablo the day before. Particularly Beverly Lane and Jim Townsend, with East Bay Regional Parks.
- Recommended that the California Trails and Greenways Foundation take over the California Trails Days with the possibility of modifying the name to incorporate Tony Look. Jeannie will contact the family and run it by them first to see how they feel about it.
- Met with the California Horseman's Association in Santa Nella last week and happy to report there are no current controversies.

- Recreational Trails Grant Program advisory committee report; there are not as many applicants as in the past. The thought is that applicants are intimidated by the grant process.
- The California Trails and Greenways Foundation applications have been updated and complete; there is currently \$80,000 in the Foundation's fund.
- Invited as a Trail advocate to the Southern California Association of Governments meeting in Los Angeles. They are working on an open space plan, which is focused near the Los Angeles River.
- Willie Nelson has joined the Wild Horse Preservation Organization, encouraged support of this group.
- Bob Gage attended the conference in Malibu on a scholarship from California Trails and Greenways Foundation. He is an active member of the California Horseman's Association.
- Yosemite is going through master planning process for the El Capitan and Tuolumne Meadows areas. The public comment period is open until mid-September.
- Mentioned the passing of George Obern; honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the California Trails & Greenways Conference. He has been a Santa Barbara Trail advocate for 50 years.

d. Member Reports:

Gregory Gandrud:

- Santa Barbara County Trails Council has a 15 person board of directors organizing into a 501-c-3 status.
- Montecito Trails Foundation paid out \$40k to maintain trails, and is tying in trail markers to a Geographic Information System mapping process for public safety reasons.
- A horse was killed during a conflict between a mountain biker and an equestrian.
- A merger was being planned between the Trails Alliance & Santa Barbara County Trails Council. Currently there is a communication impasse between the two organizations.
- New opportunity with the De Anza Trail and Coastal Trail under going a change near Gaviota. There are discussions that potentially a piece of property currently owned by Shell Oil may be purchased by the Santa Barbara Land Trust and transferred then to California State Parks.
- Outside horses banned from Hope Ranch. There are also private property owners trying to close down the public trails in that area.
- Montecito Coast Trail Foundation –pioneered 1/4 mile of trail markers also tied it in with Global Positioning System. A \$25,000 grant has been awarded to expand the marker project.
- Franklin Trail project grant application to expand the project. The lead agency is the Santa Barbra Parks Department. Part of the trail is in the National Forest near Carpentaria.

John Mercurio:

- A Citizens Advisory Committee is being formed to plan a 5,000 oopen space park east of Mount Diablo, John Mercurio and Beverly Lane are applying to be on the committee.
- Traildogs are a group that volunteers who build and maintain trails for many public agencies in the Bay Area. Looking to find funding for equipment and tools to clear trails and will be applying for a grant from the California Trails and Greenways Foundation.
- The Save Mount Diablo non-profit organization is working on a trail map of the entire Mount Diablo Area.

Maryanne Vancio:

- The San Diego County Trails Symposium is a follow up to last years event. Representatives from 18 cities are invited to discuss how to fill in the missing trail linkages throughout the County. The Symposium is scheduled for the end of September. The County is planning on inviting representatives from the Department of Fish Game, Army Corp and other regulatory agencies to participate in a panel discussion regarding ecological issues and trail development.
- Maryanne will make a presentation on the County's Trail Program at the National Trails Symposium in October.
- San Diego County will be working with Don Hays, professional trail builder, to develop cost estimates to repair existing trails.
- San Diego County is making progress on the acquisition of the old San Diego Flume bench cut for a potential 6 mile trail from Lake Jennings to El Capitan Reservoir.
- San Diego County has been discussing with the Professional Trail Builders Association the potential to hold their annual conference in San Diego. Usually held in Reno, the conference typically includes workshops and field trail building classes.
- The Trans-County Trail from Torrey Pines State Park to Anza Borrego Desert State Park involving multi-jurisdictional cooperation is slowly progressing and may potentially end up being more urban that backcountry as originally planned.

The San Diego County Trails Program staff has been reviewing up to 1,000 discretionary development permits per year.

e. Sub-Committee Reports

Award Sub-Committee

The first award was presented at the 2006 Trails & Greenways Conference in Agoura Hills. The sub-committee will continue to present awards in the future as nominations are received.

Conflict Resolution Sub-Committee

There was a very good workshop conducted at the 2006 Trails and Greenways Conference. The sub-committee will continue to provide workshops as requested but not necessarily at every CRTC.

Long Distance Trail Sub-Committee

The topic and issues of long distance trails are typically covered in the other meeting topics and reports. Recommendation by Jeannie Gillen, the sub-committee chair to sunset the Long Distance Trail Sub-Committee.

V. Public comment

Mr. Fazel – Is the California Delta Trail supported by this committee? The Committee has gone on record as supporting the Great California Delta Trail proposal.

VI. New Business

California Trail Days Sponsorship

As a member of the California Trails and Greenways Foundation (CTGF) board, Jeannie Gillen asked for support by the CRTC to have the CTGF take over all responsibilities of California Trail Days, the committee voted unanimously to support this direction. Jeannie will contact Mildred Look to seek her approval on the issue as well.

Election of Officers

- Chair – Maryanne Vancio is nominated by John Mercurio, the nomination is seconded by Greg Gandrud. The vote was 3-0 in favor of Ms. Vancio's election to Chair.
- Vice Chair - John Mercurio is nominated by Maryanne Vancio. The nomination is seconded by Greg Gandrud. The vote was 3-0 in favor of Mr. Mercurio's election to Vice Chair.
- Appointments to the sub committees to be made at the next meeting by Maryanne.

VII. Trail Program Presentations

John Fazel, Vice President -American Discovery Trail

- Mr. Fazel shared a very enlightening presentation of the American Discovery Trail (ADT) that stretches 6,800 miles across the entire continental United States.

Carol Kunze, Executive Director of Berryessa Trails and Conservation

- Ms. Kunze shared information about the Berryessa Shoreline Trail proposition with the Bureau of Reclamation.

VIII. Old Business

Level of Difficulty Trail Signage

- Steve Musillami shared information about the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP) program and the Trail Access Information (TAI) philosophy. California State Parks is evaluating the advantages of developing a simplified trail assessment process that is more applicable to user and maintenance requirements.
- Training on the UTAP, and the TrailWare software, is taught at the National Trails Symposium and has been taught at past California Trails and Greenways Conferences.

Trail Inventory Database

- Greg Gandrud recommended that there be a session at the 2007 California Trails and Greenways Conference to discuss the planning of a statewide trail website with links to land manager web sites that manage trail systems.

Multi-Use Trail Standards

- Jeannie Gillen commented that the East Bay Regional Park's (EBRP) document entitled "Technical Analysis of Proposed Changes in a Trail's Uses (checklist)" is a very good process tool for multi-use conversions.
- Steve Musillami stated that this type of checklist could be adapted to work with the Department's Trail Policy process.
- John Mercurio stated that the above mentioned checklist was developed by EBRP to assess the appropriateness of mountain bike use on single track trails. Established to allow meeting on single track trails.

Next meeting

Nov 9 and 10 in the Fresno area.

Steve: will be working with Dave Koehler for sites to visit.

Steve to Committee: CRTC needs to look at a summer and fall meeting place for next meetings, options include;

- Carpenteria
- San Diego
- Tahoe
- Riverside

ADJOURNMENT:

Jeannie moves that the meeting be adjourned. Vancio seconds the motion. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.